THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total investment in Steel Authority of India Limited including its subsidiaries, as on 31-3-1993 has been Rs. 9164 crores, in terms of the sum of net fixed assets and net working capital. Specific Energy Consumption of Crude Steel

3435. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether SAIL has claimed that specific energy consumption had been brought down from 11.2 KG Cal./t of crude steel in 1986-87 to 9.06 KG Cal./t of crude steel in 1992-93;

(b) whether it is a fact that coke rate in blast furnace has also been brought down from 775 KG Cal. of hot metal in 1986-87 to 695 KG Cal. of hot metal in 1992-93; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. The energy consumption in five integrated steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been brought down from 11.27 G. Cal./t of crude steel in 1986-87 to 9.06 G. Cal./t of crude steel in 1992-93.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is also a fact that coke rate in blast furnaces, which is a major constituent of energy requirement in a steel plant, has reduced in SAIL plants from 775 Kg/t of hot metal in 1986-87 to 695 Kg/t of hot metal in 1992-93.

(c) These improvements have been possible by a two pronged strategy of :

— improving operating practices and technological discipline.

— introduction of energy efficient technologies in steel plants.

MEETING OF INDUSTRIAL REPRESENTATIVES WITH STEEL MINISTRY

3436. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Ministry has called a meeting of industrial representatives on 17th/18th September to discuss and find out what policy intervention and reliefs are needed from Government;

(b) if so, what was the main purpose of the meeting;

(c) to what extent the purpose was achieved;

(d) what was the outcome of the discussions held by Government with representatives; and

(e) whether any final decision for their implementation was concluded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (e) As part of a continuing process o ascertaining from time to time the progress of implementation of iron and steel projects, a meeting was convened on 17th September, 1993 with some of the entrepreneurs. It was impressed upon the entrepreneurs that in view of the large investments required in this sector, where was a need for them to build up competent managerial expertise for project implementation, keeping in view the latest developments in technology, and improve the financial viability of the projects. It was also indicated that on its part Government was keen to see the early implementation of proposed projects, and towards that objective it would provide whatever assistance is possible.